



From the New York Independent.  
A LETTER TO JOHN MITCHEL.  
BY HENRY WARD BEECHER.

You address a very long letter to me, in the *Citizen* of Jan. 28, 1854, in defence of yourself and American slavery. That you select me from among all who reprobated your apostasy from the gospel of human liberty, arises, I presume, from reasons of convenience to yourself, rather than of compliment to me. I am a clergyman; and it might seem to the unvarying natural thing to address to such an one an argument on *Human Slavery*. It is doubtless more agreeable for you to stumble over the records of trade society two thousand years ago, and to talk about Moses and the patriarchs, than to ponder what John Mitchel—the Irish patriot—said but the other day about *American Slavery*. I shall not offer any issue to be made.

In the article which has excited such surprise, you expressed no opinion about Abraham; you said nothing of what you would have thought it right to do, if born four thousand years ago, on Chaldean plains, or if you had been a Jew. It was American slavery that you spoke of. Hebrew slavery admitted that a slave was a man, with all appropriate human responsibilities, and made ample provisions for his religious and civil instruction. American slavery stands upon the fundamental idea, that a slave is a *chattel*, not a *man*; and it makes the teaching him to read a penitentiary offence: an offence for which Mrs. Douglass now lies in a Virginia prison. This slavery, that destroys manhood by its first touch, you not only justified abstractly, but longed to practise it, in Alabama; and that no doubt might remain of your intention, you volunteered your belief in flogging, and other means of coercing unwilling slaves to their hated tasks.

Now, Sir, I don't wonder that you would like to have that forgotten, and that you find it more pleasant to take an amateur survey of Moses and the Prophets, than to talk about John Mitchel, and that plantation in Alabama, from whose ownership he is kept only by poverty, not by principle.

Your letter is a very poor argument on a very bad side. But the poverty of its reasoning is the best part of it. No man in your circumstances could make a good argument for voluntary slaveholding, without more time for practice. Corruption does not work so quickly. It takes time to round up and ripen a treason to moral principles.

Under the circumstances, I marvel that you have done so well. Your engagements in Ireland, for many years, would not have put your investigations in the direction of arguments for slavery.

Neither was it to be expected that you would spend your leisure in a penal colony, where you expiated the crime of fanaticism for liberty, in searching out arguments to prove the right of one set of men to own and oppress another.

After your arrival in America, you were so busy in receiving republican congratulations upon the restoration of your own liberty, that you had little time to baste upon reasons for taking away other men's liberty.

To these considerations be added some inaptitude natural to new work, some awkwardness in the discussion of Scriptural topics, and that dizziness which one must be expected to feel after a somerset, I think every one will regard your performance as far beyond anything that could have been expected.

I hope it will not be accounted vanity for me to say, that I could have helped you to frame a fair better argument in favor of Hebrew slavery. It is a new question to you; it is a very old one to us. I have heaps of trash in my library, that you might have added to your rubbish. I have within reach, enough of clay and straw on that matter to build you an argument huge as an Egyptian pyramid.

If you desire to defend monarchy from Scripture, I have by me writers that do that. The Bible has been regarded as a bulwark of oppression by all oppressors. It has opened its doors like a vast magazine, in which every man who wanted to wrong his fellows could find precedent or reason; a sword to slay the innocent, and a shield to cover the guilty. And polemical freebooters there have been to defend, from Scripture, every wrong that the sun ever shone upon; and their tracts and books are thick as the locusts and frogs of Egypt, and as loathsome. And yet, in spite of all these and tyrannous interpretations, wherever a free Bible is read, it inspires a free heart, and strikes the root of the tree down into men's bosoms with ineradicable grasp.

If, therefore, your argument be regarded, not in the light of your past personal history, but in the comparison of what has been done to make the Bible lie, and what could be done again, you have been but a poor workman. You have been angling in a petty ditch among pin-fish and wriggling vermin. You should have struck right out into those gulfs and bays, where prolific oppression has for ages spawned and hatched unnumbered monsters that disport themselves upon the surface, or muzzle in the slime, or hang poised in silent vigilance for the unvarying, like tropical sharks in the warm bays of equatorial waters. If it is your purpose to go on in your new vocation, you will find deep waters and pernicious prey all ready for you!

But what has turned you to such waters at all?

Had you been born in Alabama, had you stuck in republican from the breasts of a southern gospel, had your conscience been cultivated like a cotton-plant, and your principles spun from its soil—that interest might choose to whirl in political spinning-jennies, we should have been less surprised. For, we have learned to be surprised at nothing in moral and political legerdemain. But to see honest, riotous John Mitchel, audacious and ferocious John Mitchel, whom the world has admired as a *Crusadeur*, thundering with his battle-axe at the postern of the castle of Torquillante, till his blows rang above the whole shout of the battle; to see this Hercules, now sitting with his distaff and patiently spinning out fine threads for the meshes of the worst system of slavery that the world has ever known, this is a moral marvel. At last, we are surprised again. The long-lost luxury of that feeling has returned.

But, of course, you did not expect me to follow you into your twilight. You had no idea that I should be moved away from the real issue between you and the American public, into a discussion of Greek and Hebrew slavery.

The question between you and the public is not whether Hebrew slavery was right. Nor whether Roman slavery was right. Nor even whether American slavery is right.

The question is simply this: Can John Mitchel be an American slaveholder, without apostacy from the grounds which he took against the English government? That is a question about which Mr. Mitchel will find little light either in the Greek or Hebrew. That has to be decided in plain Saxon English.

What was the liberty which you asserted for Ireland? Was it a liberty founded upon the inalienable right of every human being to life, liberty, and happiness? or was it a liberty founded on the right of the strong to oppress the weak? That is the question which American newspapers are just now discussing, and to which, as soon as he has leisure from Moses and the patriarchs, we recommend Mr. Mitchel's attention.

It may be, that the Bible justifies absolutism; or it may be that it inspires and authorizes liberty. But whichever way it is, has nothing to do with your position before the public.

Who cares, just now, whether Abraham might hold slaves, or not? We wish to know how a braggadocio for liberty, who has filled the whole world with uproar about human rights, can reconcile liberty and slaveholding.

The patriarchs are the least part of your task. John Mitchel is the man whom John Mitchel must make his peace with! John Mitchel ten years ago for universal liberty, and John Mitchel now wishing he were an Alabama slave-owner! John Mitchel in 1848, asserting the liberty of man against the crown and sceptre, and John Mitchel in 1854, asserting the slave-whip, and the master, against the rights of man!

Crowd these two portraits upon one canvas—if you can. Please let Moses sleep; and come back from your retreat behind the dust of 4000 years, to reconcile John Mitchel holding parley with kings and autocrats, with John Mitchel flogging slaves through a rice-swamp, or along the rows of cotton on his plantation!

The public wishes to know how it happens, even if slavery can be defended, that the distance of it should be so congenial a task to Mr. Mitchel. There are some necessary tasks that honorable men do not like to perform. If capital punishment be allowed, some one must be the hangman. If the guillotine must stand, some poor catfish must assist its functions. But what should we think, if those very men that had spent their lives in endeavoring to

abolish the gallows, and put away the barbarous rattling guillotine, should rush into the first vacancy, and parade with vociferous pride their elevation to the dignity of hangman, or an executioner? There were not enough to do the dirty work in the Senate. He now, here in the Senate and before the country, reaffirmed every word contained in that address, denying that it had any imputation upon motive, or calling in question the course of any individual. He would at a proper time proceed to answer the argument of the Senator, and then he expected to demonstrate the truth of the positions advanced in the address. In doing so, he would not follow it, because it was an example not to be followed. He thanked the Senator for having brought this address so prominently forward.

But we cannot continue in this painful strain.

The fall of such a man as John Mitchel has been

thought to be, cannot exist only indignation. There is pity, too. There is a strong and generous uprising in every heart, protesting that it shall not be!

We instinctively feel that it is a dream—one of

those dreams of impossible dishonor, that sometimes

turn the tides of fortune good men; and we stand waiting

for it to break, and the visionary horror to fly away

back to the limbo of murky folly whence it issued.

O, Sir, had all this that had happened, passed in

a dream, would you not have waked, bathed in sweat, to say, shuddering, 'What a horrid nightmare have I been astirred by my soul!' God save me from even such visions of wrong?' That which

you would thus feel, we do feel for you! That

which you would thus ejaculate to God, men speak to each other. I tell you no news, Sir, when I say that you have fallen down in the sight of the whole

community, from the place of a champion of Liberty

against him by the Senator, he would defer until

to-morrow his arguments on the merits of your life

on your belly for Slavery!

Once you stood like some great oak, whose wide

circumference was lifted up above the pastures,

the glory of all beneath, and a covert for them

all the singing-birds. Now you lie at full

length along the ground, with mighty ruptured

roots, rugged and upturned to heaven; with broken

boughs and despoiled leaves! Never again shall

husbandmen predict spring from your swelling buds!

Never again shall God's singing birds of

Liberty come down through all the heavenly air, to

rest themselves on your waving top! Fallen! Uprooted!

Doomed to the axe and the earth!

I cannot hide from myself that there yet re-

mains for you a dismal age, a desolate and cheerless solitude of infirmities. Time, that would have

carried you onward, garlanded with achievements

worthy of a man living for men, and surrounded

by the genial sympathies of loving hearts, now,

will drift you to a polar solitude, without love, or

sympathy, or pity, or honor. You will sweep

coldly upon a dark current, like an ever-rolling

iceberg, that, rolling and resounding ever so much,

gains no rest by changing place.

But there is a future beyond this, even on earth.

There is a time promised, and already dawning, in

which the human family shall be one great Broth-

erhood, and Love shall be the law of man. In

that golden age, there shall be research made for

the names, that, since the world began, have

wrought and suffered for the good of their kind.

There will be a memorable resurrection of forgotten names. From the obscurity into which Despotism has flung all who dared to defy it, from the shades and darkness of oblivion, by which oppres-

sors would cover down the memory of all who

proclaimed human rights and human liberty, they

will come forth shining like the sun, and none be

forgotten that labored to bring to pass the world's

freedom! In that day, while ten thousand names

shall be heard, in all their number not one shall

utter that gone and forgotten name! John Mitchel.

But, come back to us, John Mitchel! it is not

yet too late. Our hearts and our hands shall help

you, if you will but stell yourself to break that

entchantment that some malignant mischief comes

from the misty realm of cruel oppression and breaking

upon you. The enchantment and the enchanter are dispossessed when any bold hand snatches and removes his head. Reverse your utterances! You

have been betrayed into a poor and deceitful de-

fense of it. If you abide by it, it will sink you out of the sight of all good men, and forever. But

recall it! Reverse the rod! Say to us, 'I speak

in my anger, and I defend it in my wrath': but it

is not worthy of me. It is not the truth of my

heart or of my nature! There is a power of re-

urrection for you in these few words, as great

as that of God's final Angel. It will lift you up

to our hearts again. It will place you where

God's crown, with which he will crown all true

and noble souls, shall rest undimmed upon your

brown!

But if you will not assert your better nature,

and achieve the noblest act of your life, a victory

over yourself, then, sorrowfully, we must leave

you, if we have been made to feel that you

are not fit to be a champion of the cause of

humanity.

Mr. Chase and Sumner in REPLY

TO MR. DOUGLAS.

The speech of Mr. Douglas, in the Senate, on

Monday, was remarkable for its ill-temper and di-

reverence to Mr. Chase. The correspondent of

the New York Times says the replies of Messrs. Chase

and Sumner were delivered with great power.

Mr. Chase especially (he having been made the

special object of Douglas's unmanly assault) bore

himself with transcendent splendor. The follow-

ing is a brief report of their replies:

Mr. Chase said that the senator had spoken.

He had fired his gun. They had heard the report:

they were now in the smoke, but so far as he could

see, no one had been hurt. They all survived, and

he trusted would long survive such assaults as that

of the senator. The senator had seized him and

his friends with having prepared their address

somewhere on the Sabbath. The senator had seized

upon an accidental error of dating, and upon it had

made a speech of two hours.

He had stated that it had been signed by the Ohio

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## POETRY.

For the Liberator.

## NEBRASKA AND THE LITTLE GIANT.

BY GEORGE W. BUNYAN.

Without the stature of a full-grown man,  
Or mind of more than common calibre,  
He claimed to be the giant of the West.  
And yet this four Thumb Titan is not seen,  
Save when he climbs upon a negro's back,  
Or struts and spouts upon an auction-block—  
A platform, where, in all the gilded pomp  
Of pugnacious grandeur, little Giants stand.  
If Douglas be the western Bradishing,  
What little Lilliputians are we all!  
The torts of genius shines not in his eyes,  
The gods have set no seal upon his brow,  
His speeches have no spirit in their words,  
More mists of syllables, devoid of souls.  
Thoughts are words what souls to bodies are;  
But Douglas is ambitious, and aspires  
To highest honors, though deserving none.  
He sacrificed the freedom of his State,  
Made it the type-word of a mocking world,  
The most inhospitable spot on earth,  
The black sheep in the bleating flock of States,  
That he might gain the pretentious chair.  
'Tis said at Rome he kissed Pope Nino's toe;  
But had the pontif known how mean a thing  
Was crawling there, he would have spurned him back.  
Now fair Nebraska, like a virgin pure,  
Would join the rosy sisterhood of States,  
And he is forging gallows for her,  
And branding scourges for her tender flesh.  
Shall the free winds that sweep Nebraska's vales,  
Be burdened with the shriek of her despair?  
Shall the free waves that wash Nebraska's shore,  
Blush with the blood to flow from furrowed backs,  
That such a pug may be present? Pug?  
Forbid it, wise and learned senators!

Brave Benton, speak! thy words are bullion now;  
Our hearts are coifers, waiting to be filled.  
Nestor of freedom! be Nebraska's friend;  
White-haired chieftain of the broad free West!  
As sun and moon stood still while Joshua fought,  
So will our Northern lights illumine thy path,  
Until the little Amoris is slain.  
Let Everett, with his polished lance, defend  
The honor and the freedom of the State;  
And Sumner, with his silver trumpet, wake  
The torpid North from sleep which seals her eyes;  
Let Great-heart Smith unsheathe his two-edged sword,  
And fight until Nebraska's foes have fled.  
Here of San Jacinto! arm for war!  
Douglas, like Santa Anna, stands upon  
One leg; go, capture him, and save the State!  
Let pulpit, press, platform, and people speak,  
Ere the assassin of our liberty  
Shall sheath his dagger in the nation's heart!

From the Pennsylvania Freeman.

## HAWORTH WETHERALD.

BY B. RUSH PRINGLE.

Dead! Thou art not dead! Thy spirit,  
Though it passeth from our sight,  
Far beyond the shadowy valley,  
Hath its own immortal light;

As the sun a cloud obscureth,  
Still above our feeble view,  
With a self-existent brightness,  
Shineth in the boundless blue.

Deal! Thou art not dead! Thou livest  
In the good deeds thou hast done;  
They have gone before thee, brother,  
To thy new life just begun.

They will be melodious ushers,  
Ring through the heavenly homes,  
With a far and sweet announcement,  
'E'en a soul of beauty comes!'

Thou shalt hear a reasurance  
From the shining spirit band,  
As their tender love shall lead thee  
In the glory of that land,

Till thine eye can bear the brightness,  
And thy foot shall lose its fear;  
And thy spirit, self-adjusted,  
Swayeth in its largest sphere.

We shall miss thee; miss the counsel,  
Ever sweet, and true, and brave;  
Miss thee, when our hearts are heavy  
With the wailing of the slave:

Miss thee, in the heat and burden  
Of the battle-field of life;  
Miss thy steady, cheerful presence,  
Strong and earnest in the strife.

Thou were meek and unassuming,  
But in truth and duty skilled;  
Still believing and heroic,  
All thy modest orbit filled.

Lifted from thy limitations  
To that new and shining sphere,  
Do immortal love and beauty  
Break upon thy eye and ear?

Reapen thou the full fruition  
Of thy spirit's human hope?  
Do as the end from its beginning;  
To thy larger vision ope!

Seest thou from human sorrow  
Still a deeper joy evolve,  
And the discord that surround us  
Into harmonies resolve?

Brother, from the height attaining,  
Help us in the trial hour!  
Thou hast left us; we are weaker;  
Touch us with thy larger power!

\* A most devoted friend of the slave, recently deceased near Philadelphia.—[Ed. Lira.]

## AN ANGEL IN THE WAY.

Fare the downward path is spread,  
Love and light thy coming greet,  
Fruit is blushing 'e'er thy head,  
Flowers are springing 'neath thy feet.

Mirth and Sin, with tossing hands,  
Wave thee on, a willing prey;  
Yet an instant pause—there stands  
An angel in the way.

Heed the heavenly warning—know  
Fairest flowers the feet may trip;  
Fruits, that like the sunset glow,  
Turn to ashes on the lip.

Though the joys be wild and free,  
Though the path be pleasant, stay!

Even mortal eye can see  
An angel in the way.

Wilt thou drown in worldly pleasure?  
Wilt thou have, like him of old,  
Length of days and store of treasure,  
Wisdom, glory, power and gold?

Life and limb shall sickness waste,  
Want shall grind thee day by day;  
Still, to win thee, God hath placed  
An angel in the way.

## A TEAR.

Some feelings are to mortals given,  
With less of earth in them than heaven;

And if there be a human tear  
From passion's dross refined and clear,

A tear so limp and so meek,  
It would not stain an angel's cheek,

'Tis that which plucks fathers' shed  
Upon a dutiful daughter's head.

## THE LIBERATOR.

Reported for the Philadelphia Register.]

GREAT DEBATE ON THE BIBLE,  
BETWEEN MR. JOSEPH BARKER, OF OHIO, AND  
REV. DR. BERG, OF PHILADELPHIA.

[CONTINUED.]

## THIRD EVENING—(concluded.)

DR. BERG. (As this gentleman rose from his seat, there was a burst of applause; when he reached the stand, there was a second one, more general and enthusiastic. A few sounds of h'sh.)

My opponent comes up, by his present mode of argument, to lay aside the more calm discussion, which I would greatly prefer, from prepared notes, and to resort to extemporaneous refutation. I much regret that the preliminary arrangements of this discussion have been forgotten by my opponent, and that he introduces subjects entirely foreign to the topic in hand. The consequence of this is, that the form of the discussion is not regular; and that wherever he has wandered, I have been compelled to ask your indulgence for following him. I am glad that he did not repeat his charge against me that I did not answer his objections. I have answered them as fast as I could talk; and he knows full well, that it requires far less time to make an objection, than to answer it. I find, too, that his frequently refuted arguments are again and again presented. Before I go farther, I would respectfully remind my opponent I have asked him several questions, which he has not yet answered. I would now repeat them, and again request an answer, whenever it may suit his convenience to give it, and not one moment before. I ask him—

1. What is the name of the Supreme Being he worships?

2. What are the attributes of that Supreme Being?

3. How are these attributes revealed to him? How does he know these attributes belong to him, when he does not know His name? He said that he had seen infidels die without fear, because they believed in God of love, free from malignity. This is true of Christians: their God is one of infinite compassion and love, and they go to him with confidence with which they would to a father. My opponent says that the heathen know the attributes of the Supreme Being from his works, and that Paul affirms that his eternal power and love are known from nature. These do not, however, include all the attributes of Jehovah. Now I would like to know how the others were revealed to them; and I beg him to answer me, unless he is unable to tell.

My opponent discards the idea, that there is nothing besides laws for the government of the universe; he admits that there is something back of malaria, for the production of disease. This is certainly an advance towards the orthodox faith. (General applause and cheering.) He says that God fixes the laws, and then leaves their operations to take care of themselves, he is in the bog of atheism. (Slight applause and cries of h'sh.) I find myself under the necessity of correcting a few personal mistakes, for which my opponent is, perhaps, not to blame in one respect, but in another. A report published in some of the papers makes him say, that we were born and educated in the same bosom.

Mr. Barker. I did not say that.

Dr. Berg. What did you say?

Mr. Barker. I said that we were born under the same government, and that you were educated in the same parish in which I was born.

Dr. Berg. I will state the way in which Mr. Barker became possessed of his information. In the preliminary arrangement for this discussion, Mr. Barker complained, that in a former debate, my friend, Mr. McCalla, had used his foreign origin to excite prejudice against him. I then said that I had crossed the water too. But though there is this in common between us, there are some striking differences between us. I crossed when I was a child of 13 years of age; I received my education in this country, and have been here twenty-eight years; and though I love its institutions, my opponent is no worse in my estimation, though he is from a foreign land. I shall ever look with love towards the land where cluster my associations of school and childhood. But I would remark that there is this difference between us—I did not come to preach disorder and sedition; nor to upset the government and institutions of the country; nor to insist upon topics which—(murmur of disapprobation, hisses, cries of question, and go on, braves, and some applause;) it was a minute or two before order was restored.)

Dr. Berg. Allow me, my friends, to finish my sentence, and do not take up my time with applause. In alluding to this topic, I disclaim all intention to excite any feeling of angry hostility against Mr. Barker. My only object was, to prevent the introduction into this debate of a topic wholly foreign to it, and which I have understood, from several sources, my opponent was resolved to force into it. I wished to forestall this, by stating the chief differences between us. I think that when a foreigner enjoys the benefit of our institutions, he should not interfere with them; that modesty requires him to leave their reform to those who are better entitled to discuss them. My opponent objects to the Scriptures, that the original MSS. are lost; and that there are diversities in the copies. I would ask him, what work of antiquity is not open to precisely the same objections? Is not the original MS. of Homer's Iliad lost? Are there not diversities in the copies preserved? Would he reject it on that account, and say that there is no such book? and that the story of Homer is entitled to no credit? Virgil's Aeneid is in precisely the same case. And would he refuse to receive the commentaries of Cesar, because the original MS. is lost, and there are different readings? And let us come to modern times.

If I present you Shakespeare's plays, do you think of this? How about the original manuscripts? Well, where are they? Have they not been copied and recopied? I do not pretend to deny, that in a work, the transcripts of which have been handed down from century to century, there are not occasional interpolations. It is admitted that these exist in the Bible; but my opponent can make nothing of this. The tendency of his argument is to prove that there is no Bible; and it bears as severely on his side, as on mine. We have the highest judicial authority in Europe and the United States for saying that it is settled as law, that the best evidence is where substantial agreement is accompanied with circumstantial variety. The variations in Shakespeare are the best proofs of the former existence of an original, and thus is my opponent's argument on this point scattered to the winds. (Slight applause, a few hisses, and cries of h'sh.)

My opponent says that I called him some thirty or forty foul words; and I did, I am sorry for it. But I may do again, for when this blessed book lays down a principle, I accept it as true. If it says that certain expressions are blasphemous, and a man uses them, he is a blasphemer, and I can't help it. If it says that persons who act in a certain way are children of the devil, and I call them by that name, I can't help it. All that I can say, is, that if my opponent feels that the cap fits him, he can wear it.

My opponent has cited the denunciation by Christ of the Pharisees as applicable to ministers and professors of the Gospel, and quotes Isaiah to prove that the Jews were more vile than the Gentiles. Can this be a charge upon the Bible?

Does the prophet not utter his denunciations against those who refuse the Gospel? Does not Christ speak of the Scribes and Pharisees as his enemies? To the enemies of the Bible, then, do these passages refer. (Slight

applause.) To them belongs the appellation of hypocrites; to them pertains the denunciation of Christ. Of them it is said, 'Ye serpents, how shall ye escape the damnation of hell?' (General applause.) Again, he says that the Bible reflects upon the character of God, by representing salvation as withheld from nine-tenths of the human family. My answer is, that all the gifts of God are gifts of grace; that men are by nature sinners, and have no claim, whatever, upon the justice of God; and that all his good acts towards his creatures are of undeserved favor. And let me tell him, that all the signs of the times indicate that the period spoken of in the Bible, when the light of the Gospel shall chase away all the clouds of error, when such a scene as this shall not be witnessed, and when a man shall not need to say to his neighbor, Know the Lord, for all shall know him, from the least to the greatest; God speed that glorious day, when infidels shall cast

do nothing of the kind. (A whistle—laughter.) Since my arrival in this country, I have never uttered any thing against its institutions, unless slavery be one of them. In all cases, I have spoken my heartfelt admiration of the laws, customs, and political liberties enjoyed in the United States. In the only meeting on the subject of slavery which I have attended in this city, I was blamed by some for the apology I made for this country; nor am I conscious of any intention to introduce this subject into the debate, farther than to state and prove that the Bible upholds it. This I have a right to do, because I consider it one of the greatest of all crimes and immorality. But, does Dr. Berg pretend that I am enjoying the benefits of slavery?

Dr. BERG. I did not say that.

MR. BARKER—I have wished that this country, excelling in so many things, should be free from this stain. The sun has spots upon his surface, but I have wished that the stars of this republic should have none. (Applause.)

In England, (cries of question, order,) I have spoken in public of this country as worthy of imitation, and I spoke against kingship, that was arrested by order of the Attorney-General. (Applause, and cries of question.) If you are satisfied, I am. But when a wrong impression has been given, and I can remove it in a few words, I think it my duty to do it.

The Doctor speaks of Homer's Iliad, and asks if I would reject that, because of the different readings of its five hundred manuscripts? I answer, No. I would not reject that. I would only treat it as a human composition. But if some old Greek should tell me that the book is of God, I should reject that idea. And when I find that the original manuscript of the Bible is lost, that the copies we have are contradictory, that there is no possibility of comparing them with the original, I must remain in doubt forever as to the right text; and I will not consider the book a Divine and perfect one. (Groans, and contemptuous laughter.)

The Doctor asked, how can I tell whether the passages I quote are not interpolations. I cannot tell. If they are, the book is human. If they are not, it teaches the grossest immorality.

The Doctor says that he had received a strictly religious training from my parents, and therefore I could not regard infidels impartially. I did not know facts enough to justify these conclusions.

Dr. BERG—I am willing to take the word of my opponent—either now or then, if he will tell me which to take. His statements conflict. In his book, he speaks of having a considerable acquaintance with infidels.

My opponent said, that the strong language used by him in his little book was the result of his prejudices against the infidels.

In another part of this volume, I find the record of the death of Francis Newport.

The Doctor here read the account. We have been unable to obtain it. The most striking passage in it was the exclamation of Newport on his death-bed: 'Oh! that God would cease to be!' I wish there was a possibility of getting over God! I endure more than damned spirits! [1]

Now, here are passages which accord with the facts of universal experience. Infidels are hardened when in prosperity, but when they are near death, the latent sense of conscience is aroused, and, spite of their pride, they call on Christ for mercy.

My opponent says that the family institution, which he loves, is of Divine authority. I respectfully ask him how God has revealed it to him. He begins now to see that some other foundation than human authority is necessary. Now, if the God of the Bible has established the family institution, the authority is there. We find that Adam and Noah had but one wife; that the moral government of God is throughout consistent, and that God never yet revealed that polygamy was right. It is inconsistent with every moral statute. I will add, that God sometimes permits men to be convinced of the evil of certain institutions, for the purpose of discipline. My opponent insists that it is my duty to regard God as malignant. No such thing. The Christian's God is a God of love, a reconciled Father, ready to forgive his children, and afford them an abundant entrance into glory. Only out of Christ is he a consuming fire. But he is all mercy to those who rejoice in the Mediator.

I will now show you, out of my opponent's mouth, how dark infidelity is. He has told us that there is no remission of sin; that no man who has sinned can expect to be forgivens; that there is no escape in this world or the next. For infidels, there is no Savior, but they must live, always looking forward to terrible retribution. He has seen infidels die happy. His experience is altogether different from that of all others. I never saw one of these bold blasphemers die, and I hope I never may. The records of such scenes are so full of horror, that they overwhelm with dread. I will give you one or two instances, to which I ask your solemn attention.

The Doctor says that all God's gifts are gifts of grace. Is it grace to love one and hate another? I called it cruelty and injustice to save one, and condemn all the rest to the eternal wrath of God; to let the sinner escape, and damn the whole nation.

The Doctor hopes that the day is coming when Christianity shall cover the whole earth. But Bishop Campbell, and also Mr. Stephen Colwell, of your city, say that it is losing, instead of gaining, ground. But, let both sides be plainly spoken, and freely uttered. Let the mightiest triumph, and I shall be content.

In a former speech, I said that I had seen Christians die full of horror. I take pleasure in now adding, that among readers of the Bible, I have known some of the most noble, most beautiful, most brave, and most holy persons with whom it has been my lot to meet. As to the quotation he made from my writings, I repeat, that at the time I wrote that, I was under the dominion of the law, and had no fellowship with unbelievers. I had been taught by my parents, spiritual pastors, and my whole education, to believe in the natural depravity of man, and that every unbeliever was a bad man, though he pleased me.

My opponent said that he loved the family institution, when there is one wife and one husband living together in love for the term of their natural life; but it is not true that when you deny the Divine Authority of marriage, you strike a blow at the very foundation of that institution? If it has no other basis than the human law, then it has no dependence or stability. Men devise law for themselves, and can change it to suit themselves; what the laws make, they can unmake; what they enact, they can annul; and unless there is a sanction higher and greater than any human authority, there is no stability whatever for this institution. But I will read you another passage from Scott. [The Doctor had commenced reading, when his time expired. As he took his seat, there was long applause.]

MR. BARKER.—(Hisses and applause.)—Scott was a Scotch hero read from Scott, a page descriptive of the battle of Waterloo, in which the soldiers of other cities of France, when large numbers of men were bound together, or shut up in the holds of ships, and sank in the stream, and the sacrifice was called republican baptism; and when a man and woman were tied together and thrown into a river, and the murder was called a republican marriage.]

The Doctor says that I denied the Divine authority of the family institution, and that my principles undermine its purity. Did I not say that the form of marriage was of Divine origin, though he stated that he had been taught by his parents, spiritual pastors, and my whole education, to believe in the natural depravity of man, and that every unbeliever was a bad man, though he pleased me?

Did I not say that the form of marriage was more moral than any other? I did not say that the form of marriage was of Divine origin; but I did say that he was consistent; so much so, that a stranger would judge, from some of the remarks he made, that he was an infidel.

The Doctor says that I deny the Divine authority of the family institution, and that my principles undermine its purity. Did I not say that the form of marriage was of Divine origin, though he stated that he had been taught by his parents, spiritual pastors, and my whole education,